

Nancy Johnson



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Johnson Delivers New Funding for 5th District

West Main Street Reconstruction in Waterbury Improvements for Waterbury, Charlotte Hungerford Hospitals Funding New Bus Maintenance Facility for Waterbury Preservation of Litchfield's First Congregational Church

WATERBURY, CT – Congresswoman Nancy Johnson today announced significant funding to improve Fifth District neighborhoods and strengthen transportation and health care.

“This funding is tremendous news for Waterbury and Litchfield County,” Johnson said. “I pushed hard for these projects because improving our neighborhoods, enhancing health care, and strengthening transportation are top priorities on my agenda. This is a real victory for better health care and transportation for the District.”

The following projects for Waterbury, Torrington and Litchfield were approved today in the final spending bill of the 108th Congress. Pending Senate approval the bill, the President will sign it into law soon.

WATERBURY – \$750,000 for reconstruction/widening of West Main Street

This proposed project is the second phase of a major improvement project, which will reconstruct West Main Street in Waterbury from its intersection with Riverside Street to its intersection with Park Road. The project will improve traffic flow on West Main Street, one of the city's principal arteries.

WATERBURY – \$500,000 for construction of a city bus maintenance facility

This project contemplates the construction of a new, state-owned bus facility in the Waterbury area, a critical component to state and regional long-term transportation improvement plans. The existing facility is a converted foundry on a 3.2 acre site. Approximately 40 fixed route buses currently operate out of the facility. The building was not designed for bus operation and lacks modern electrical and mechanical resources. This funding will go to the construction of a new, modern regional bus maintenance facility for the greater Waterbury area.

WATERBURY – \$100,000 for Waterbury Hospital to enhance their medical and clinical technology as part of a two year project to support their Clinical Data Repository Initiative.

This initiative is a significant effort to completely replace its 13 year-old, antiquated and patchwork medical information system. This initiative will result in the reduction in medical errors, improved clinical outcomes, adoption of “Best Clinical Practices,” improved billing accuracy, compliance with new privacy legislation, integrated electronic medical records, online documentation and decision support, interdisciplinary online alerts, reduction in costs and redundancies, and support doctors and nurses in care delivery. It will also position Waterbury Hospital for 21st century care, facilitate chronic disease management, enhanced medical training, and enable quick response to bioterrorism threats/disasters. Waterbury Hospital has already invested \$32 million over the past five years to upgrade our clinical information systems infrastructure, however significant improvements are still necessary.

LITCHFIELD – \$300,000 for the First Congregational Church in Litchfield

This venerable meetinghouse of the First Congregational Church on the Green in Litchfield is a landmark facility typifying a small New England Village. The proposed preservation project would replace the supporting structure that holds the ceiling in place; strengthen and stabilize roof trusses; restore and reinforce the auditorium ceiling; seal and preserve the exterior roof; install a state-of-the art fire suppression system; restore the double row of windows and blinds that line three walls of the meetinghouse; and remove lead paint and repair the Ionic columns supporting the front portico and east porch.

TORRINGTON – \$150,000 to renovate ER at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Begun in January 2004, The Emergency Department multi-phase project will renovate 6153 square feet of the existing space to ensure that patients with varying types and levels of emergencies are quickly matched with the expertise and resources that will best meet their health need. It will also improve access to the medical care delivered, while maintaining the highest standard of quality. Finally, it will address the need to provide a dedicated evaluation and treatment area for patients presenting to the Emergency Department with medical problems complicated by behavioral health issues. The development of a behavioral health unit will create a safer, less stressful environment for patients presenting with acute mental health crisis and for the staff treating them, as well as allow for significantly greater privacy, safety and security for all patients.

Developments over the past few years that have created the need for this improvement project include sharply rising patient volumes, an increase in the acuity and complexity of medical care delivered in the outpatient and emergency settings, a steep rise in the number of uninsured with no access to medical care, a growing regulatory burden affecting emergency services, and a need for improved medical information sharing.

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